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ACTIVITY BRIEF

Networking for Mobility

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Regional Services Center



Wheelchair users assembling wheelchairs in the Motivation Romania workshop

Partners:

Motivation Romania Foundation

Geographic Targets:

Romania, Moldova, and one additional country in Southeastern Europe

Project Duration:

9/30/2004-9/30/2007

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U.S. Agency for International
Development

Activity Background

In spite of an overwhelming need, only a small percentage of people in Southeastern Europe are able to obtain and afford an appropriate wheelchair and training to live independently. Networking for Mobility aims to create a regional solution to the overwhelming need for affordable wheelchairs and to improve the quality of life and integration of wheelchair users in their communities.

Core Interventions

- Establish a wheelchair production, distribution, and training network through which low-cost and efficient wheelchairs will be distributed in Romania and Moldova and one additional country in Southeastern Europe.
- Facilitate the integration of the wheelchair users in their communities through education, peer group training, advocacy, and networking.

Activity Results

- Produced and distributed 130 customized wheelchairs and components in Romania.
- Trained 72 people in wheelchair use and independent living skills, such as driving, to increase their opportunities for integration.
- Raised awareness of issues and needs of wheelchair users among 152 doctors, parents and specialists.
- Initiated a network with organizations in Moldova, Serbia, Bulgaria and Macedonia to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities.
- MRF employs 18 wheelchair users itself, provides professional training to wheelchair users and established linkages with 10 employment agencies to increase employment opportunities for its beneficiaries.